

Remarks

Claims 1 and 4-11 are pending for examination and claims 2, 3 and 12-22 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1 and 4-11 were rejected. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 have been amended, claim 9 was canceled.

Priority

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging his claim for foreign priority based on the application filed in Canada on May 12,2000. A certified copy of the Canadian Patent application (Patent Serial No.: 2,308,830) is filed herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the indicated subject matter of claim 6. Applicant believes that claim 6 is no longer indefinite and request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection to claim 6.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1, 4, 6-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Aihara et al, in view of Moghadam et al, and further in view of Seal et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The present invention is directed to a specific method of providing an inventory of digital images for a client in a manner, which is confidential and secure. Claim 1, as amended, recites a method comprising the steps of: acquiring digital images of items for the inventory using a

digital camera, then transferring the images to a memory in a computer separate from the digital camera where the images are formatted, encrypted and provided with a PIN, these processed images are then transferred to a storage medium for the client.

It is respectfully submitted that Aihara in view of Moghadam and Seal do not teach, infer or direct one skilled in the art to the method defined. In particular, Aihara discloses a digital camera 110 comprising an imaging device 114 and a programmed computer 118 that are connected together by a system bus 116 (see figure 1). However, Aihara fails to disclose a method wherein a digital camera acquires images that are transferred to the memory of a separate computer where the images are then formatted and, after further encryption and PIN processing, transferred to a storage medium for the client. In contrast, the removable memory 354 disclosed by Aihara is the temporary memory of the digital camera 110 itself.

The Examiner admits Aihara fails to teach encrypting the formatted images and cites Moghadam. However, Moghadam fails to remedy the deficiencies of Aihara. Moghadam discloses a photographic system for processing photographic film that bears an indicia relating to a security feature. The indicia encrypting step in Moghadam is for the security control purpose of the photofinisher to certify the authenticity of the image (Col. 2, lines 42-49). In contrast, the claimed invention uses encryption as a method for providing a client a secure inventory of digital images. Consequently, the limitations of claim 1 are not suggested or taught by Aihara or Moghadam or by the hypothetical combination of Aihara and Moghadam. Further, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Aihara and Moghadam. Aihara relates to digital camera photography and Moghadam relates to securing the photo processing system.

The Examiner admits Aihara in view of Moghadam fails to disclose applying a PIN to the encrypted images and cites Seal. However, Seal fails to remedy the deficiencies of Aihara in view of Moghadam. Seal discloses a personal identification apparatus for accessing a network, such as an ATM, based on the characteristics of a person's eye and has no direct or indirect relationship to the digital camera described by Aihara or to the photographic processing system of Moghadam. Consequently, the limitations of claim 1 are also not suggested or taught by

Aihara, Moghadam or Seal or by the hypothetical combination of Aihara, Moghadam and Seal. Furthermore, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Seal with the teachings of Aihara in view of Moghadam either directly or by inference. Therefore, the Applicant asserts that claim 1 is patentable over Aihara in view of Moghadam, further in view of Seal and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claim 1.

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 10 depend on independent claim 1 either directly or ultimately. These dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons as presented above with respect to the claim from which they depend. Further, the dependent claims also include additional limitations which distinguish them from the prior art. For example, Aihara in view of Moghadam, further in view of Seal does not disclose the specific arrangement of inventory images and thumb print images defined by claim 7. Also, Aihara in view of Moghadam, further in view of Seal teaches downloading a formatted HTML file from the camera to a PC or web server, in contrast to downloading the images to a computer where they are processed and then stored on a CD-ROM or secured server memory as recited in claim 10. Applicant, therefore, believes claims 4, 6, 7, and 10 are also patentable over Aihara in view of Moghadam, further in view of Seal, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 4, 6, 7, and 10.

It is noted that in view of the Examiner's remarks regarding similarity of claim 9 to claim 7, claim 9 has been deleted.

Claim 5, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Aihara, in view of Moghadam, in view of Seal, further in view of Official Notice. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The purpose of clearing the images from the temporary memory in claims 5 and 8, and of deleting the encrypted formatted images from the computer memory in claim 11 is to enhance security for the client while providing him with an inventory of digital images and not providing for the purpose of being able to re-use space on the memories as inferred by the Examiner. As recited in the claimed invention, once the service provider gives the client the inventory on CD-

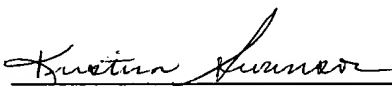
ROM or some other medium, and the service provider clears all of its memories, only the client has a record of the inventory, which can then only be viewed or used by the client. Therefore, claims 5, 8 and 11 are non-obvious over Aihara, in view of Moghadam, in view of Seal, further in view of Official Notice

Further, claims 5, 8 and 11 depend from the independent claim 1 either directly or ultimately. These dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons as presented above with respect to the claims from which they depend. Applicant believes that claims 5, 8 and 11 are non-obvious over the prior art and respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 5, 8 and 11.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the above claims represent allowable subject matter. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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